CLAIMS

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A tire labeling system for positioning a label on [[the]] a surface of a specific tire, wherein the specific tire is maintained within a stack of tires, the tire labeling system comprising,

a computer adapted to receive tire information and position information regarding a specific tire;

a printer receiving the tire information for the specific tire from said computer and printing the tire information on the label;

[[an]] a single applicator configured to receive the label for placement on [[the]] the specific tire within the stack of tires; [[, and]]

a frame carrying the applicator, the frame [[facilitating]] receiving the position information so as to direct movement of the applicator along a first axis, a second axis, and a third axis, and including at least one first guide for moving the applicator along the first axis, a second guide supported by the at least one first guide for moving the applicator along the second axis, and a third guide supported by the second guide for moving the applicator along the third axis; and

an arm carried by one of said guides, wherein said arm is rotatable with respect to one of said axes and wherein said computer instructs said rotatable arm to move along the first, second and third axes so as to pick up a label from said printer with said rotatable head, and then move said rotatable arm along said axes so as to apply the label to the surface of the specific tire.

2. (Original) A tire labeling system according to claim 1, wherein the second guide is formed as a cross member, the cross member supported by two first guides for movement along the first axis.

3. (Original) A tire labeling system according to claim 2, wherein the third guide is formed as a post, the post supported by the second guide for movement along the second axis.

4. (Original) A tire labeling system according to claim 3, wherein a carriage carrying the applicator is supported by the post, the carriage being moveable on the post along the third axis.

5. (Currently Amended) A tire labeling system according to claim 4, wherein ~~the applicator includes an arm~~ said arm is rotatably attached to the carriage, the arm being rotatable between [[a]] said pick-up position and at least one application position.

6. (Currently Amended) A tire labeling system according to claim 5, wherein the applicator includes [[a]] said rotatable head having a head surface for receiving the label, the head being repositionable, according to movement of the arm, and movement of the applicator along the first axis, the second axis, and the third axis, to pick up the label and apply the label to the tire.

7. (Currently Amended) A tire labeling system according to claim 6, wherein the head surface includes an opening extending therethrough, and wherein said head is in communication with a vacuum line adapted to selectively apply a vacuum through the opening to pick up the label as instructed by said computer.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) A tire labeling system according to claim [[8]] 1, wherein the frame includes a carriage carrying the applicator, the carriage being supported by the third guide for movement along the third axis.

10 - 14 (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) A method for applying printed labels to a surface of a specific tire, wherein the specific tire is maintained within a stack of tires, comprising:

supplying tire information regarding the tire to a computer including position information of where the specific tire is in the stack of tires;

instructing a printer to print the tire information on a label; [[and]]

using an applicator on a rotatable arm to remove the label from the printer;

moving the applicator in a first axis, a second axis, and a third axis so as to position the applicator near the specific tire; and

moving the rotatable arm so as to apply the label to the tire.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein the label is made self-adhesive and is mounted on a backing; the method further comprising using the applicator to separate the label from the backing before applying the label to the tire.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16 further comprising

selectively applying a vacuum ~~to the applicator~~ a rotatable head extending from said rotatable arm to separate the label from the backing.

18. (Canceled)